

# **CITY OF FITCHBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

## **MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2016**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:** John Koutonen, Harry Karis, Tom Starr, Mike Donnelly, Dennis DeGara, David Streb, John Cordio (assoc. member)

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Tim Smith, Mike O'Hara

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Community Room, Lower Level, Fitchburg Fire Headquarters, 33 North St.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Gale Assocs. - FIT Vegetation Management Plan – update:

Matt Caron, Gale Assocs. in to inform Commission of proposed change in schedule of tree cutting on ConCom parcel in runway approach zone. Their OOC req'd work would be done in "frozen, dry, or otherwise stable conditions". Due to mild winter, frozen ground never really occurred. They wish to monitor stable conditions this July/August and conduct the tree then. They will notify Commission when this happens. Commission had no objection to the change.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Notice of Intent - City of Fitchburg, park improvements, First & Railroad Streets

Amy Leblanc & Larry Casassa present. Maintenance plan for park has been submitted by DPW. Mike wary of approving this OOC w/o maintenance plan for all city parks. Wants to continue until there is a better maintenance plan.

Jim McGrath, Parks Board: They have ltd. capability, there's only four Parks employees. Lots of maintenance is done thru volunteers. He also wants better maintenance for all parks.

Motion made (Mike) to Deny OOC b/c not convinced that the maintenance plan presented will be followed through. Any maintenance done here will be taking resources away from other parks in Riverfront. No second to motion.

Harry sees Mike's point.

Motion made to continue hearing until there is a better maintenance plan. No second to motion.

Motion made (Dennis) & seconded (Tom) to Approve OOC. Vote 6-1 in favor.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Fitchburg DPW-Wastewater, Kimball St. & Cleghorn St.

Tony Maressa, DPW-Wastewater System Manager & Matt Corbin, Wright-Pierce explained plan. As part of the sewer separation project a replacement storm sewer is being built in area on Beech St. & Rollstone St. Some new DMHs will be built are is within the Riverfront Area.

Tim: With projects in Riverfront Area, they're required to improve conditions if possible.

Tony: They're installing new CBs w/ deep sumps. Work will start downstream from & work their way up Kimball St & Beech.

Motion made & seconded to issue Negative Determination. Vote in favor.

Notice of Intent - Edgewater Homes, Inc., 0 Rindge Rd. (near McKay School) - sewer connection in Riverfront Area (continued from March 29)

Brian McKenna, substituting for Paul Graz present. Septic system is not really an option, Title V requires that new construction must tie into sewer if it is available.

Tim had met w/ Jon Sisson, Edgewater's wetlands consultant on site. The BVW has been expanded to the cattle culvert. Edgewater's proposed work is also within the buffer zone, NOT just the Riverfront Area. Outstanding issue: How will dewatering be done? Tim wants to see more info on it.

Also though just installing sewer line, the Commission can look at the cumulative effects if sewer line serves more than the one dwelling. Graz Eng: It's just an individual service to the one house.

Tim: How does project meet DEP's stormwater standards ?

Suggested seeing how one lot and see how that goes before continuing with more.

Stilling basin location? Will use the stormwater basin, is outside of the Riverfront Area.

Tim: They should show the new buffer zone & the location of the dewatering basin. He would like the applicant to discuss w/ the Commission the cumulative effect of the development of this & adjacent lots. Need a comprehensive approach & an Alternatives Analysis.

Mike: If the new lots tie to sewer line in Rindge Rd., would that be less impact on BVW & wetland?

Graz Eng.: They're just tying into the existing sewer lateral meant for one house. Extending sewer down Rindge Rd. would be cost prohibitive.

John: Commission could require a performance bond.

Commission agreed to continue hearing to June 28 & invite Hosea Ketola.

Request for Determination of Applicability - MAS Realty, 93 Nocke St. (n/f Sanitoy), partial demolition

An Anthony Cleaves, Whitman & Bingham presented plans for demolition of several structures at rear of building, nearest Nashua R. Catchbasins on site will be protected during demo. Will be filing plans in July for redevelopment of site into office space for state agencies. Will need to provide more parking.

Tim: With projects in Riverfront Area, they're required to improve conditions, if possible.

Anthony: They plan to reduce impervious area on site & provide more green space adjacent to river.

Motion made & seconded to issue Negative Determination (#2). Vote in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Proposed removal of tree at Riverfront Park

No one present for this item.

Mike D suggested that if tree is to be removed, that is be replaced at \$100 per caliper inch. Since tree is 7"-8" diameter, cost would be \$800.

Commission asked to invite Parks Board to next meeting.

Concept plan - driveway near 371 Sheldon Rd.

Anna Jaffee in to show plan of where driveway was roughed in, when they found out that they needed to file w/ Commission work was stopped and they contacted an engineer who will be filing NOI & plan for next month's meeting.

Abutters next door were also present and expressed concerns about work on driveway being started w/o filing an NOI.

Extension Permit - Cholacki, Ashburnham Hill Rd.

Owner had asked via email for as long an extension as ConCom was willing to give. No would has been done on parcel. Is not on market yet. Commission agreed to grant a 3 year extension.

Extension Permit - Ferrebee, 340 Ashburnham Hill Rd.

Bill Ferrebee present. Said that he has not started any of the project yet, he asked for three years.

Commission agreed to grant a 3 year extension.

Fitchburg DPW - Shea St. Drainage Improvements, Phase II

After 5/20 site visit w/ DEP, area will be reflagged at DEP's suggestion.

There may be less resource area actually affected. DPW prepared a response to the numerous comments that DEP raised and is waiting for DEP's review.

Commission informed that on 186 Albee St. DEP had issued a Superseding OOC due to the OOC not being issued 21 days after the hearing closed. Tim pointed out that there was also a denial under the Local Wetlands Ordinance, which is not appealable to DEP. A letter to that effect will be sent to the applicant and DEP, City Solicitor & Bldg. Commissioner.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting: 6/28/2016